

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-10 DOTE-00 L-03

RSR-01 /086 W

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R 141845 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5709

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 8523

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ETRN, WB, GW, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: USE OF BERLIN/ TEGEL AIRPORT BY PAN AM
AND BEA

REF: A) STATE 113000 B) BONN 7629

1. AT BOTH A PRE- BCATAG TRIPARTITE CAUCUS AND AT THE BCATAG MEETING ITSELF ON JUNE 12, EMBASSY PRESENTED DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS (REF A). ALTHOUGH THE BRITISH APPARENTLY WOULD HAVE LEFT MORE LEEWAY AND INITIATIVE TO THE CARRIERS, THEY HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN PRINCIPLE WITH OUR PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION. BOTH THE UK AND FRENCH REPS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH TO THE ADVANTAGE OF PASSENGERS TO HAVE BOTH AIRLINES AT TEGEL, RATHER THAN ONLY BEA AS IN SENAT PROPOSAL.

2. AT THE FULL BCATAG MEETING, THE US SIDE COMBINED DISCUSSION OF COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION WITH A STRONG PRESENTATION ON THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF REACHING A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY PLAN FOR TRANSFER OF A PORTION OF THE PRESENT IGS SERVICES TO
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TEGEL. THE US REP POINTED OUT THAT FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, THE MODALITIES OF THE TRANSFER COULD NOT BE HANDLED PURELY FROM A COMMERCIAL POINT OF VIEW AND THAT ALL AFFECTED PARTIES SHOULD EXAMINE THE SITUATION TO SEE HOW THE FRG SAW THINGS AND POINTED OUT THAT A POSSIBLE MEANS OF EASING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES OF THE CARRIERS WOULD BE AN INCREASE IN THE PASSENGER SUBSIDY.

3. BOTH THE SENAT (DIDERICH) AND FRG REPS (KRONECH, FOREIGN OFFICE, AND SPRENGER, TRANSPORT MINISTRY) WERE RECEPTIVE TO A FULLER EXPLORATION OF COSTS AND AGREED THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING BOTH AIRLINES MOVE TO TEGEL. THE FRG REPS WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE FIRM VIEWS ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POSITION (AS DISTINCT FROM THE SENAT) BUT AGREE TO STUDY THE MATTER FURTHER AND TO DISCUSS IT WITH THEIR AUTHORITIES. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, KORONECK DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN THE SUBSIDIES.

4. AS A NEXT STEP IN DEVELOPING A BCATAG RECOMMENDATION, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SENAT AND THE BERLIN AIRPORT COMPANY (BFG) WOULD ASSEMBLE MORE DETAILED AND THROUGH DATA ON THE TOTAL OPERATIONAL COSTS AT TEGEL. THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT AFTER THAT STEP, THE CAA' S OBTAIN CARRIER VIEWS ON HOW TO DIVIDE THE TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE TWO AIRPORTS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PROVIDE CONVENIENT SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC WITH A MINIMUM INCREASE IN OVER-ALL COSTS. THE EMBASSY WILL AIR POUCH COPIES OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: AFTER THE ALLIED PRESENTATION ON JUNE 12, THE SENAT REP SEEMED TO ACCEPT THAT DESPITE THE NEED FOR DECISIONS ON CERTAIN PRACTICAL MATTERS AT TEGEL, IT WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED TO TAKE THE TIME TO REACH A CONSIDERED DECISION, EVEN IF THIS MEANT DELAYING THE OPENING OF THE NEW FACILITIES AT TEGEL. CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROBLEM IS MOVING RELATIVELY SMOOTHLY, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS BOTH OF THE

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SENAT AND OF THE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS AND CARRIERS WHICH ARE AT STAKE. WE AGREE WITH THE DEPARTMENT THAT IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO OBTAIN DETAILED VIEWS FROM THE AIRLINES ONCE THE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN08523
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: CORE6
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730619/aaaajaud.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 113000, 73 BONN 7629
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 08 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <13-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980206
Subject: CIVAIR: USE OF BERLIN/ TEGEL AIRPORT BY PAN AM AND BEA
TAGS: ETRN, PGOV, FR, GW, UK, US
To: BERLIN
EB
LONDON
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

